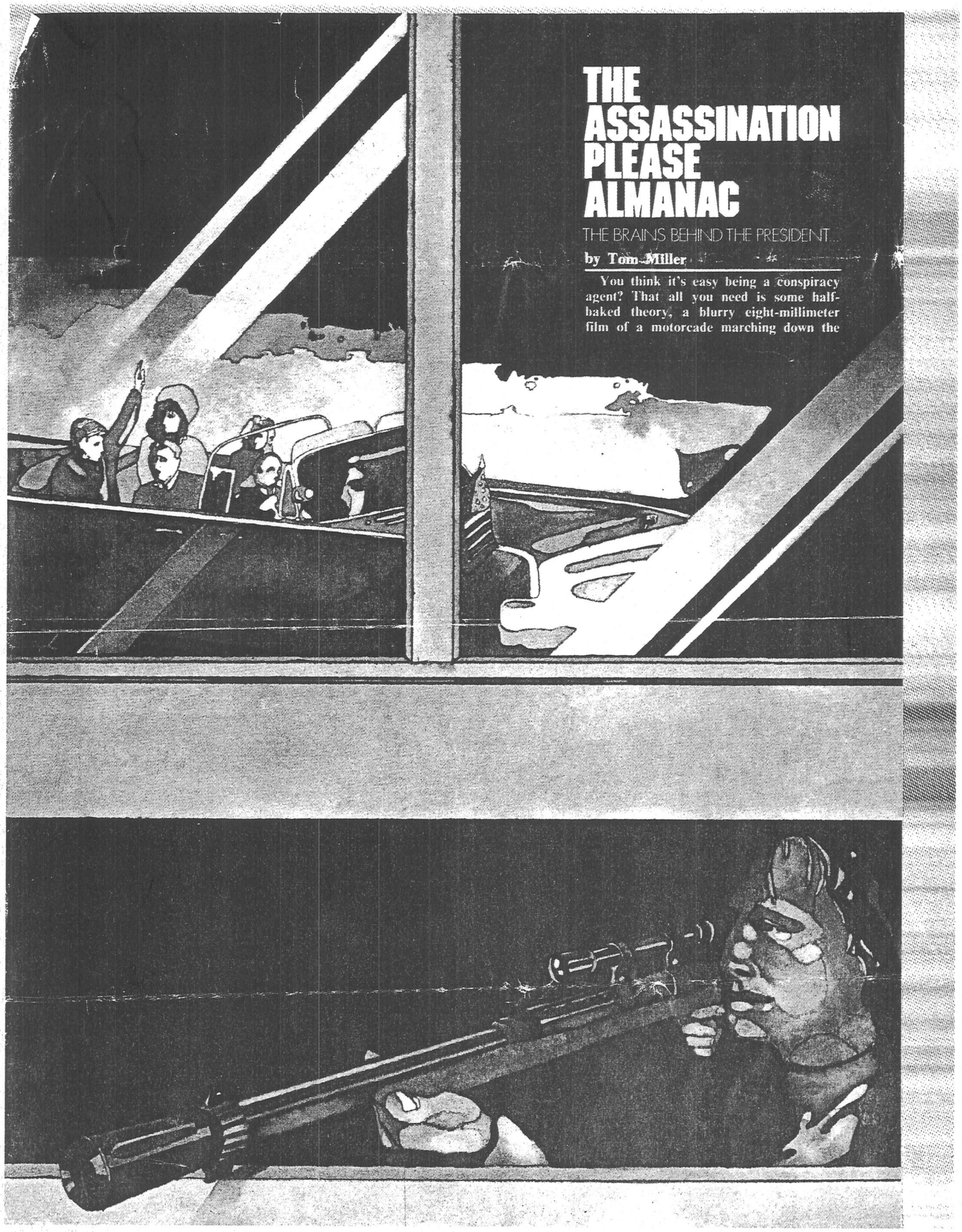


THE ASSASSINATION PLEASE ALMANAC

THE BRAINS BEHIND THE PRESIDENT...

by Tom Miller

You think it's easy being a conspiracy agent? That all you need is some half-baked theory, a blurry eight-millimeter film of a motorcade marching down the

street and a dog-eared copy of the Warren Commission Report? Well it ain't that easy; in fact, if you have big ideas about joining the assassobuff union, you better study hard. The first step is to learn the basics, acquire a working knowledge of the primary, incontrovertible facts and slogans. When someone whispers "2039," do you know what it means? How about "Cafarikis"?* Memorize your ABCs and your numbers—then proceed, with caution, to the really tricky stuff.

YOUR ASSASSINATION A-B-C'S

A—ASSASSINATION—the '60s greatest "hits"

B—BRAIN—where is John Kennedy's? It was supposed to be preserved by the National Archives, but no one can explain its mysterious disappearance. Forensic pathologists say that bullet fragments in the brain would yield significant data.

C—CONSPIRACY—*CIA; Cuba; Carousel Club; Connally;* etc.

D—DEALEY PLAZA—everyone from Gerald Ford to Sherman Skolnick agrees this was the site of the JFK assassination (see "G")

E—EXECUTIVE ACTION—intelligence term for eliminating a head of state; name of recent book and movie about JFK assassination

F—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT—law by which researchers are trying to pry data from the government, recently revised to close some of the gaping loopholes favoring government secrecy (see "X")

G—GRASSY KNOLL—where many researchers and eyewitnesses believe shot which killed JFK came from

H—HUNT, E. HOWARD—(former?) CIA operative, allegedly took part in every conspiracy since Demetrius and the Gladiators (see "W")

I—INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART—New Orleans business concern which Clay Shaw, a target in the Jim Garrison investigation, headed. Shaw was acquitted; recently, former CIA exec Victor Marchetti acknowledged that Shaw was, in fact, a CIA contact (see "N")

J—JOHNSON, LYNDON B.—man who benefited most from JFK assassination. Believed in conspiracy theory, but thought JFK plot was Castro retaliation for attempts on his life (see "C")

K—KENNEDY FAMILY has publically expressed little interest in re-examining evidence in death plots (see "B")

L—LOVELADY, BILLY—School Book Depository employee resembling Oswald. Also *Lee, O.H.,* name by which Oswald rented room in rooming house.

M—MANNLICHER-CARCANO—Italian bolt-action rifle Oswald owned. FBI experts could fire it at 2.3 seconds per shot

N—NEW ORLEANS—city figures prominently in conspiracy investigation

O—OSWALD, LEE H.—a probable participant in JFK death (see "T")

P—PAINE, RUTH—Oswald's landlady who got him the job at the School Book Depository

Q—QUEEN MARY—name of Secret Service car following Kennedy's in Dallas motorcade

R—RAY, JAMES EARL—convicted in Martin Luther King case, now desperately trying to gain retrial with new evidence

S—SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS—method by which scientists can determine whether bullet fragments all came from the same gun (part of data withheld under "F")

T—TRIANGULATION OF FIRE—method by which three assassins shoot simultaneously from different angles; given known facts, this is a plausible explanation of the manner in which JFK was hit (see "U")

U—UMBRELLA MAN—mysterious man with black umbrella next to Dallas motorcade whose actions lead researchers to suspect him as a possible signal man to assassination team

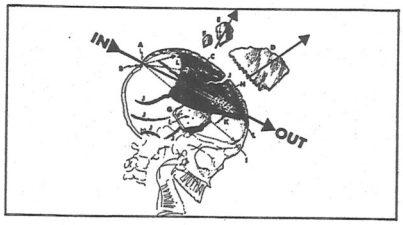
V—VASCULAR INJURY IN ABDOMEN AND CHEST—medical diagnosis of Oswald at time of death

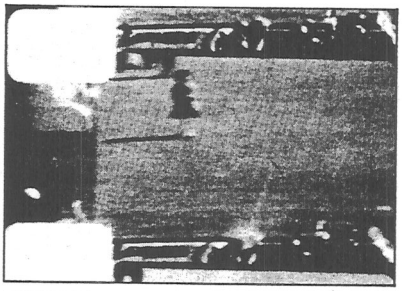
W—WATERGATE—it is said that if you look down the elevator shaft at Watergate, Dealey Plaza appears at the bottom

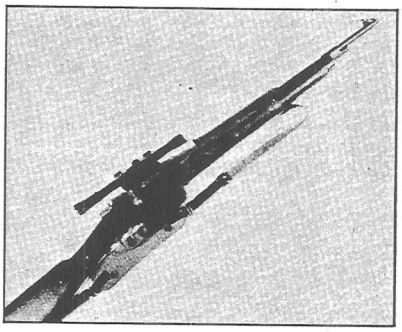
X—X-RAYS from Kennedy autopsy have been made available to only one non-government pathologist since 1963

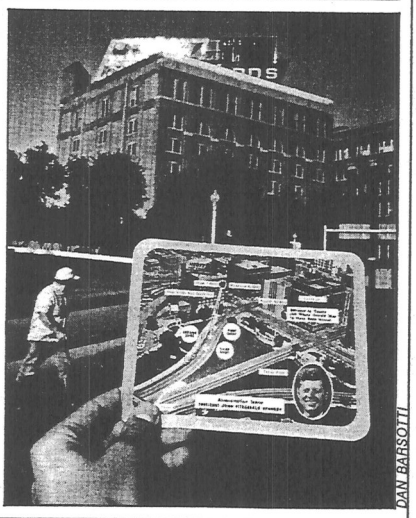
Y—YOUNGBLOOD, RUFUS—Secret Service agent who protected LBJ in motorcade. Also **YABLONSKY, JOSEPH**, political-labor leader killed by conspiracy (not to forget Fred Hampton, Sam Melville, George Jackson, Allison Krause and Carl Hampton, among others)

Z—ZAPRUDER, ABRAHAM—Dallas dressmaker who shot footage of Kennedy on home movie camera









*2039—the year many documents pertaining to the JFK investigation will be made public; in 1964 the Warren Commission specified certain files withheld from the public for 75 years. Cafarikis—ex-butler to Onassis who claimed Ari knew who really killed JFK but withheld it to protect Jackie and the kids.

1—ONE CRAZED ASSASSIN—a favorite explanation by governments and mass media when important personage is inexplicably killed; also called "lone-nut theory" (an independent psychosis phenomenon)

2—SECOND OSWALD—theory that there was an Oswald double operating on behalf of an intelligence network in Mexico City and elsewhere; photos and other documentation support this theory

3—WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBIT #399—the bullet which, according to the Report, traversed Kennedy's neck, Connally's ribs, right wrist, and lodged in his leg (all at grossly inconsistent angles), yet shows virtually no wear; sarcastically called the "Miracle Bullet" for accomplishing a seemingly impossible task

4—FRAME 413—Zapruder film frame showing what appears to be a gunman crouched in a position consistent with theories that the fatal shot came from the front rather than rear

5—5.6 SECONDS—the timespan between the first and last shots fired at JFK, according to the Warren Report; Oswald's rifle (see "M") could fire a maximum of three shots in this time—and investigators claim a minimum of four shots fired

6—SIXTH FLOOR of School Book Depository, where Oswald worked the day of the assassination

7—SEVEN—number of Warren Commission members; can you name them all? (Earl Warren, Hale Boggs, Gerald Ford, Richard Russell, John Sherman Cooper, Allen Dulles and John J. McCloy)

8—EIGHT—number of chambers in empty pistol held by Sirhan Sirhan, although numerous investigators have ascertained that there were . . .

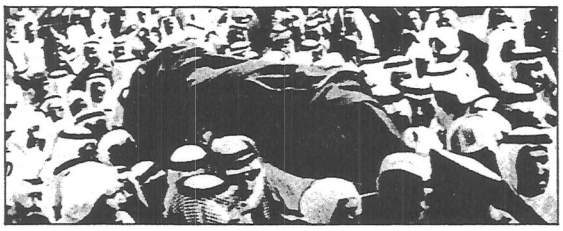
9—NINE—bullets, and possibly a tenth found at the scene in the Ambassador Hotel kitchen pantry

0—ZERO—number of convictions in JFK assassination, to date

Congratulations! You are a graduate of the Elm Street School for Novice Conspiriologists. You can now hold your own in any conspiracy conversation, phone intelligent questions in to radio talk shows, or become the resident expert on your block, corridor or rural route. Your next step is to specialize.

Bumping off heads of state is always a popular form of world diplomacy. Here is a list of men who either held office at the time of their violent deaths, or shortly before. It includes presidents, premiers, dictators—all killed since 1950.

38 WITH A BULLET



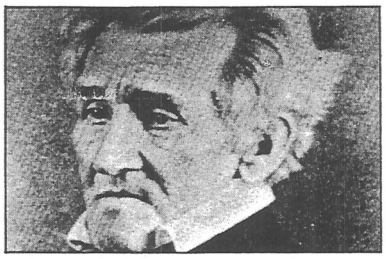
Abdul-Husayn Hazhir	Iran	1950	Sylvanus Olympio	Togo	1-13-63
Col. Sami Al-Hinnawi	Lebanon	10-31-50	Abdul Karim Kassem	Iraq	2-9-63
Carlos Delgado Chalbaud	Venezuela	11-13-50	Ngo Dinh Diem	S. Vietnam	11-2-63
Ali Razmara	Iran	3-8-51	John F. Kennedy	United States	11-22-63
Riad Al-Sulh	Jordan	7-16-51	Jigme P. Dorji	Bhutan	4-5-64
Abdullah	Jordan	7-20-51	Pierre Ngendandumwe	Burundi	1-15-65
Ali Khan Liaquat	Pakistan	10-16-51	Hassan Ali Mansour	Iran	1-21-65
Jose Antonio Remon	Panama	1-2-55	Mario Mendez Montenegro	Guatemala	10-31-65
Adnan Al-Malki	Syria	4-22-55	Sir Abubakar Balewa	Nigeria	1-15-66
Anastasio Somoza	Nicaragua	9-21-56	J. T. V. Ironsi Aquiyi	Nigeria	7-30-66
Carlos Castillo Armas	Guatemala	7-26-57	Hendrik F. Verwoerd	South Africa	9-6-66
Abdul Ilah	Iraq	7-14-58	Abdi Rashid Ali Shermarke	Somalia	10-15-69
Faisal II	Iraq	7-14-58	Wasfi Tal	Jordan	11-28-71
Nuri Al-Said	Iraq	7-16-58	Abeid Karume	Zanzibar	4-7-72
Solomon W. R. Bandaranaike	Ceylon	9-25-59	Richard Sharples	Bermuda	3-10-73
Hazza Majali	Jordan	8-29-60	Mohammad Ali Osman	Yemen	5-30-73
Patrice Lumumba	Congo	1-17-61	Salvador Allende	Chile	9-11-73
Rafael Trujillo Molina	Dominican Rep.	5-30-61	Luis Carrero Blanco	Spain	12-20-73
Louis Rivagasore	Burundi	10-61	Faisal ibn Abdul Aziz al Saud	Saudi Arabia	3-25-75

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1) What are the factors of climate in political assassination? Geography? Economy? Industrialization?
2) How do you account for the absence of any Scandanavian entries? the abundance of Middle Eastern ones?
3) All the murdered heads of state are men. Why?
4) How come nobody ever took a shot at Richard Nixon? Is it too late?

In this country there have been only ten attempts on Presidents or presidential candidates which have gotten as close as an actual shooting; of these, half were unsuccessful. Among the accomplished failures:

*In January, 1835, Richard Lawrence, 35, fired two pistols at Andrew Jackson



in the Capitol Rotunda. (As you can well imagine, the acoustics must have made for an incredibly loud noise.) Both guns misfired and Jackson, his cane upraised, rushed Lawrence, who was captured and jailed. Evidently, Lawrence considered himself a large European landowner with substantial claims against the U.S. government (although he hadn't been back to his native England in 23 years) and believed Jackson was conspiring to deprive him of his money. Lawrence also claimed that by killing Jackson, who had recently vetoed a bill rechartering the Bank of the United States, he would aid working people because the bank would be rechartered. By trial time, some of Jackson's supporters accused Lawrence of being part of a Whig conspiracy, but nothing about it was brought out in court. Verdict: not guilty by reason of temporary insanity. The defendant lived out his life in mental institutions. Prosecuting for the government: Francis Scott Key.

*Milwaukee is the scene of our next unsuccessful attempt. This time it was

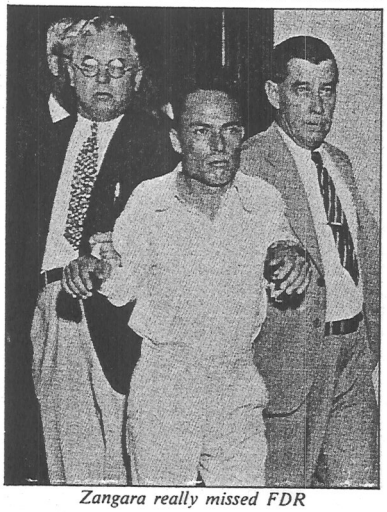
PHOTOS BY UPI

T.R.'s Bremer: Bull Moose loony

Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. Would-be assassin John Schrank, a retired barkeep, aimed at Roosevelt from six feet during the former President's Bull Moose campaign to regain office. The bullet went through a briefcase TR was holding, as well as a fifty-page manuscript (folded over) in his pocket. Bodily damage was

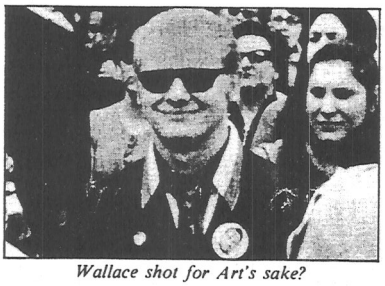
a fractured rib. Schrank viciously opposed anyone seeking a third term, he said, and related dreams in which William McKinley, assassinated eleven years earlier, told him Roosevelt was responsible for his own assassination and that Schrank shouldn't let TR become president. Rather like Arthur Bremer following George Wallace around the campaign trail, Schrank stalked Roosevelt through eight states in three weeks before trying to kill him. He, too, was declared looney and put in a mental institution.

*The other near-misses include a shot at President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt



Zangara really missed FDR

in Miami, Florida, in February, 1933; the November 1950 Blair House attempt on Harry Truman by Puerto Rican nationalists; and a point-blank paralyzer at George Wallace three years ago in a suburban Maryland shopping center. Roosevelt's attacker was Guisseppe Zangara, who saw himself representing the world's poor attacking the ruling class. He was electrocuted. One of Truman's attackers, Griselio Torresola, was killed on the spot; the other, Oscar Collazo, is still in prison. And finally, the last of the fallible attackers, Arthur Bremer, sits in



Wallace shot for Art's sake?

a Maryland jail. Investigators have found numerous discrepancies in the Bremer-was-a-lone-crazed-assassin story put out by the government. (Where did he get all those $100 bills?) George Wallace himself remains skeptical of the government line.

STALKING THE WILD CONSPIRACY
8 QUESTIONS TO PONDER

* Why was Gerald Ford able to obtain classified transcripts of Warren Commission meetings, print them verbatim in his book *Portrait of the Assassin*, and reap the publishing profits without being charged with violating federal secrecy acts?
* From whom did prison escapee James Earl Ray obtain the cash and sophisticated false ID enabling him to travel to London and around Europe subsequent to the King assassination?
* Why do some CIA files on Oswald's pre-Dallas activities list him as "Lee Henry Oswald"?
* The official autopsy on Robert Kennedy disclosed he was struck by three bullets from behind at point-blank range. Witnesses to the shooting insist Sirhan Sirhan was at least several feet in front of the Senator throughout the entire shooting. Was there a second gun or did Sirhan use loop-the-loop bullets?
* Why was Jim Braden, a known member of organized crime—identified by police agencies as a "Mafia bagman"—arrested in Dealey Plaza on suspicious behavior minutes after the JFK assassination and then released?
* Who is the heavy-set man, photographed by hidden cameras, walking away from the Mexico City Soviet Embassy in October, 1963 who identified himself as "Lee Oswald"?
* Where did Arthur Bremer obtain the necessary cash to follow George Wallace around the country, stay in expensive hotels and purchase a car?
* The address of Lee Oswald's "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" in New Orleans was the same building as the anti-Castro organization's "Anti-Communist League of the Caribbean" and the "Cuban Revolutionary Council." Why?

—TM

STALKING THE WILD CONSPIRACY II
8 THEORIES TO IGNORE

There is a Newtonian quality to conspiriology: for every credible theory there is an equal and opposite theory which has sailed off the edge of the earth. Here are some of them. (Unless otherwise noted, the sources are researchers mentioned elsewhere in the article.)

* Hale Boggs (Warren Commission member on board a plane which disappeared off the Alaskan coast in October 1972) is alive and well 10,000 miles from U.S. shores, and will resurface shortly, ransomed by his "widow" and her family.
* I.F. Stone is a CIA agent because he staunchly defended the Warren Report from criticism, and never recognized the events in Dallas as a major factor in the Vietnam build-up of '63-'64.
* "President Kennedy's assassination was a hoax. . . . It was masterminded by social engineers in furtherance of promoting social reform. President Kennedy was not assassinated; he was deposed from power." (From Bernard M. Bane, *Is President John F. Kennedy Alive . . . And Well?*)
* The girl in the polka-dot dress in the Ambassador Hotel kitchen where Robert Kennedy was shot is the daughter of the man with the black umbrella in Dealey Plaza where John Kennedy was shot, hence *that* is the family to watch if you want to keep up with assassinations. (Tom Miller, *Berkeley Barb*, June, 1973)
* Martin Luther King was killed by other blacks to promote street-rioting and gain sympathy for black causes. (Various southern white supremacist groups)
* Pope Paul was part of a smuggling ring working with Aristotle Onassis to spirit drugs out of Greece.
* Newly sworn-in President Lyndon Johnson fucked John Kennedy's throat wound en route to Washington from Dallas aboard Air Force 1. (Paul Krassner's medium)
* Lee Oswald, acting on his own, killed John Kennedy, and Jack Ruby acted on his own when he killed Oswald two days later.

—TM

Enough history. Here is a do-it-yourself conspiracy-building kit. Assume, as I do, that the following is true:

1) Frank Fiorini, a Cuban expatriate, is one of six men expressly warned by the Kennedy administration in September, 1963, to cease activities on behalf of U.S.-based Cubans wishing to invade Cuba. (UPI dispatch, *New York Times*; September 16, 1963; p. 39.)

2) A few years after leaving office, Lyndon Johnson speculates that the John Kennedy assassination could have been retaliation for U.S.-backed efforts to kill Castro. When he assumed office, LBJ learned that "we had been operating a damned Murder Inc. in the Caribbean." (*Atlantic Monthly*; July, 1973; p. 39.)

3) Frank Fiorini, identified as Frank Sturgis, is picked up at the Watergate office building as one of the men breaking into Democratic Party offices in June, 1972.

The man from Havana: Frank Fiorini (Sturgis)

Now overlay the above facts. Your theory can be reduced to an illustration from which you can draw any number of conclusions. There are numerous people around the country who specialize in investigating the facts which lead up to these intriguing webs, develop probable conclusions, ferret out the nonsense, and further check out the likely possibilities. Most assassination researchers are not aligned with any group, but most have contact with others and share their information.

As with any phenomenon in America, conspiriology is subject to class analysis. *The proletariat* consists of those who collect and digest books and magazine articles on assassination and discuss it with their friends. It becomes a passion similar to chess or philately. These people are not in touch with others outside their own circle, nor do they have access to more restricted data or media. One of them may have solved the whole thing years ago, but no one in the upper two classes would know. For more restricted data they must rely on *the professional bourgeoisie*, which makes up the bulk of well-known conspiriologists. It includes academic researchers, lecturers, writers and attorneys. They soon learn of each other, and continually trade off information. They (we) have access to the media, which *the elite of conspiriology* also has. The elite is distinguished by the fact that it creates news itself, and often has common backgrounds with its subjects in intelligence communities.

The three classes, of course, overlap, and some individuals—though not many—form and align with groups to lend respectability, credence and organizational structure through their work. With all the brouhaha lately, you'd think U.S. periodicals had never heard all the facts and theories before. Actually, they have. It's just that this year the subject is a trendy extension of Watergate-mania. The process has a snowballing effect which creates more interested parties and a more favorable climate for exposing heretofore smothered facts. Some periodicals, bless their mastheads, have at different times over the years, contributed to conspiracy lore when it was not in vogue. Consult those sources at your leisure.

It was in the December 19, 1963 *National Guardian*, a Marxist-oriented newsweekly, that conspiriology—the art and science of sniffing out secret cabals—began its latter-day renaissance with *Mark Lane*'s legal brief defending the ghost of Lee Oswald. Since then, Lane has taken his information all over the country and into Europe, where they have more respect for conspiracy theories. His format has been books, movies, off-Broadway acts, records, and the campus lecture circuit. Right now, Lane, who enjoys his role as public godfather to conspiriology (as well as his involvement with the defense in the Wounded Knee trials), heads the *Citizen's Commission of Inquiry* (103 2nd St. N.E., D.C. 20002).

Lane's renewed activism can be pinpointed to last February's highly successful conspiracy festival in Boston, sponsored by the *Assassination Information Bureau* (63 Inman St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139). AIB is a five-member group consisting of political activist/theoretician *Carl Oglesby*, mystery writer *Michael Gee*, plus *Bob Katz*, *Harvey Yazijian* and *David Williams*, whose "Who Killed JFK?" slide and film presentation has appeared on hundreds of campuses over the last couple years.

AIB puts its facts into an overall political context best articulated by Oglesby's "yankee-cowboy" theory of ruling class alignment. Reduced to its simplest form, the theory outlines a struggle throughout American history between two power elites, one representing the internationalism of East Coast monied interests (yankees), and the other, the westward expansionism of computer-aerospace-warfare-landboom-agribusiness interests (cowboys). The Kennedy assassination, the theory goes, was a coup by the cowboys seizing power from the yankees. Watergate exposure, then, is a counter-coup by the yankees to wrest power back from the cowboys.

The AIB is starting a newsletter, *People In The Pursuit of Truth*, printed by *Edmund Berkeley*, publisher of *Computers and People* (815 Washington St., Newtonville, Mass. 02160) which has distinguished itself in the field by printing valuable original research on the JFK, MLK and RFK assassinations. One regular contributor is *Richard Sprague*, whose photoanalysis of key pictures of people and places surrounding the John Kennedy assassination has aided others in the field.

One person unimpressed with Sprague's work is pop-culture critic subordinaire

PHOTOS BY UPI

Mark Lane, first to challenge Commission, visits scene of the crime

A.J. Weberman, whose conclusions about some photos is quite at variance with Sprague's. Previously, Weberman has published many of his conclusions in *Yipster Times*, a fairly outrageous and enjoyable rag loosely affiliated with the remnants of the late Youth International Party.

Robert Cutler is another New England researcher; his work includes self-published books (available from P.O. Box 1465, Manchester, Mass 01944) on the angle of the "miracle bullet," as well as hypotheses on the methods of crossfire used in Dealey Plaza. Cutler is an architect. His drawings are immaculately detailed, showing precise angles and positions of people, buildings and bullets.

When in Dallas, Cutler is hosted by *Penn Jones*, the token good ole boy of the conspiracy biz. Jones is the retired editor and publisher of the *Midlothian* (Texas) *Mirror*, and has been investigating the JFK case from the beginning, specializing in tracing the untimely deaths of many witnesses whose testimony could reverse Warren Commission conclusions. His work appears in four self-published books (available from PO Box 140, Midlothian, Tex. 76065) called *Forgive My Grief*. Most recently, Jones has written for the weekly *Iconoclast*, the only Dallas media willing to continually explore and agitate for further investigation.

Other papers along the alter-

Fensterwald cuts McCord, eyes JFK

native/underground continuum which have propagated conspiriology include the *Madison* (Wisc.) *Takeover*, *Berkeley Barb*, *LA Free Press*, *Boston Phoenix*, *Village Voice*, and the *L.A. Star*. Best-known of the non-established journals is *The Realist*, a magazine of credible satire and unbelievable facts published by *Paul Krassner*. *The Realist*'s resident conspiracy expert is *Mae Brussel*, who, if conspiriologists were ranked like records in *Billboard*, would be about #8-with-a-bullet on sheer notoriety alone. Brussel has built quite a reputation researching the common patterns and personnel involved in political subterfuge, extending beyond assassination to the SLA, Watergate, police provocateurs and other political dramas. Her work leaves many answers unquestioned.

In early 1969, a Washington, D.C. lawyer named *Bernard Fensterwald* (attorney for Watergate defendant James

Weisberg slaps on some "Whitewash"

McCord) started a group called the *Committee to Investigate Assassinations* which, although comprised mainly of the field's elite, managed to collate valuable information. It was CTIA which sponsored the November 22, 1973 tenth anniversary conference hosting conspiracy experts at a two-day Georgetown University forum. The conference high point was photo expert *Robert Groden*'s midnight showing at Fensterwald's Alexandria, Va. townhouse of a specially processed Zapruder film. Working with attorney *Jim Lesar*, Fensterwald has filed a series of Freedom of Information suits, trying to pry information out of the government for long-time researcher *Harold Weisberg*. Weisberg is a somewhat cantankerous gentleman whose research into recently declassified material has comprised

Gregory, Ralph Shoeman, Groden examine Zap

Volume IV of his industrious and informative *Whitewash* series (available from Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701).

Investigator/reporter *Wayne Chastain* is another man who works with Lesar in the attempt to gather evidence on behalf of James Earl Ray, whom Chastain has shown in his *Computers & People* series to be a fall-guy. Prior to a University of Arizona assassination symposium, *Robert Joling*, president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, naively called Time, Inc. inquiring if he could borrow the original print of the Zapruder film for the night. Time, Inc. said no one's ever asked; okay, you can. On the same forum was *Dr. Cyril Wecht*, who has amassed substantial medical evidence to show misfeasance on the part of those conducting the JFK autopsy, plus evidence that more than one gun was used in the killing. Another autopsy specialist figuring in conspiracy is Los Angeles' own *Thomas Naguchi*, "coroner to the stars." It was Naguchi who performed the RFK autopsy, and his evidence is at odds with the official story that one person acting alone killed the Senator.

Los Angeles! Lotsa action there. Let's

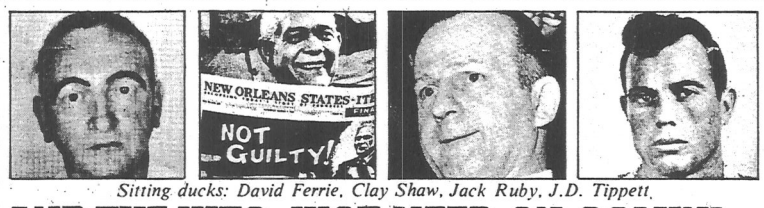
RFK killed by Charach's second gun?

start with *Donald Freed*, whose *Citizens Research and Investigating Committee* (11926 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025) is the umbrella for his efforts. Freed, who also researches police provocateurs, is plugged into Hollywood propaganda and has long-range plans to complete a film trilogy of assassination information, *Executive Action* being the first. *The Committee to Investigate Political Assassination* (not to be confused with Fensterwald's D.C. group) is *Rusty Rhodes'* official letter head (2412 Oakwood Ave., Venice, Ca 90291). Rhodes has done petition work, signing up thousands of people urging declassification of pertinent documents in the National Archives, and says he has evidence that a plane with Dallas conspiracy participants went down in the Gulf of Mexico. Another L.A. researcher is *Ted Charach*, who has produced a movie called *The Second Gun* showing his investigative technique piecing together evidence that more than one gun was used on Robert Kennedy seven years ago.

"I'm now in the transition from being a former-Congressman to a current kook," says *Allard Lowenstein*. Once billed as

"America's oldest student activist," Lowenstein is now pushing for a new RFK investigation. Using his organizing and speaking ability, Lowenstein has garnered support from unlikely sources (such as *William F. Buckley*) to push forward with the documentation he has amassed. Lowenstein recently appeared on the UC-Berkeley campus with *Peter Dale Scott*, whose writing in *Ramparts* and elsewhere has made him among the most highly-respected conspiriologists in the trade. Indeed, if *Gourmet* rated conspiracy researchers like they do restaurants, Scott would get five stars for his thorough and meticulous work. A Scott colleague in Berkeley is researcher Paul Hoch, who has voluminous files on the John Kennedy assassination and the discrepencies in government files on Lee Oswald. Another Oswald specialist is St. Louis professor *Richard Popkin*, who has also worked on demystifying the lone-nut theory.

Towards the edge is the *Citizen's Committee to Clean Up the Courts* (9800 S. Oglesby, Chicago 60617) in the person of *Sherman Skolnick* and cohorts. Skolnick



Sitting ducks: David Ferrie, Clay Shaw, Jack Ruby, J.D. Tippett

AND THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMIN'

Dallas' own Penn Jones, an intrepid former newspaper editor, is the man responsible for the various ascending speculation on the number of JFK assassination/investigation figures who have died under mysterious circumstances since Nov. 22, 1963.

"It's now over one hundred," Jones asserts, "but I can't give you an exact number—I've gotten a little lax. I think I've made my point." Recently, a "very, very important witness" was added to the list which includes everyone from Lee Oswald and Jack Ruby to David Ferrie and Hale Boggs.

His name is Roger Craig (not the former Dodger pitcher). He was 39 years old when he was found shot to death May 15 in his father's home in Dallas with a gunshot wound in the chest and a rifle and note nearby. Dallas homicide investigators called it suicide.

Craig was a key witness to the events in Dallas. A deputy sheriff, Craig was stationed that day in Dealey Plaza as part of the police patrol. After the shooting he claimed he saw a guy who looked like Oswald run out of the Book Depository and climb in a station wagon that was waiting on Elm St.

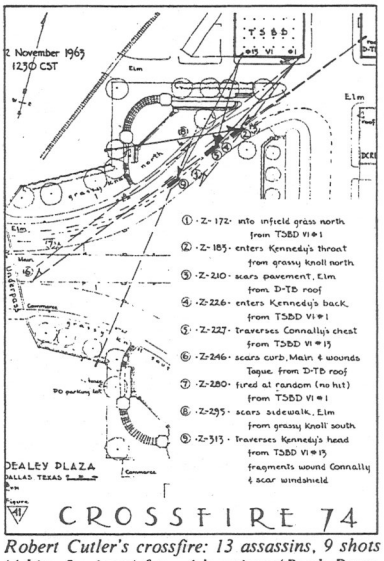
That afternoon, at Dallas police headquarters, he identified Oswald as the man he saw run out of the Book Depository. Craig then described the Rambler station wagon. "That's Mrs. Paine's car, leave her out of this," Craig says Oswald told him. (Ruth Paine was Oswald's landlady. Police officials did not record Oswald's response.)

Craig was never called to testify before the Warren Commission but he did submit an affadavit on what he saw and heard. When the Warren Report was issued, Craig said that the Commission had made numerous errors in his affadavit and had diluted the substance of his testimony. In response to all this, Craig took his case on television talk shows. He also appeared before Jim Garrison's grand jury investigation, at which time he was fired by the Dallas police department.

In 1973, according to police records, Craig's car was run off the road by another automobile, and Craig suffered severe injuries. Then, six months before his death, Craig opened the front door of his Waxahachie, Tex. home and was greeted with a shotgun blast. Again, he was hospitalized.

"I do believe it was suicide," Penn Jones remarks. "That is, he pulled the trigger. But they killed him with 11½ years of harassment. They have different methods of getting to them."

Craig would have been a terrific witness to call before any Congressional Committee investigating the assassination. Others high on that list, according to Bob Katz of the Assassination Information Bureau, include James Hosty, an FBI agent who was familiar with Oswald; Warren DeBrueys, an FBI agent who was stationed in New Orleans when Oswald was in New Orleans, was transferred to Dallas when Oswald was "transferred" to Dallas, and moved back to New Orleans after the assassination; Henry Wade, district attorney of Dallas, who's expressed some sympathy for a reopening of the case; Will Fritz, chief of homicide of the Dallas police at the time of the shooting, who might be asked about reports of suppressed evidence; and four members of the Commision team: Albert Jenner (of Watergate fame), David Bellin (of the Rockefeller Commission), Arlen Specter (of single bullet theory notoriety)—and Gerald R. Ford. Will any of these people make Penn Jones' list before a new probe is begun?



Robert Cutler's crossfire: 13 assassins, 9 shots (4 hits, 5 misses) from 4 locations (Book Depo, Dal-Tex Bldg., grassy knoll, and a manhole)

articulates the unthinkable—not to mention unbelievable—using the scattershot approach to research: if you aim wide enough, you're bound to hit something. Although he has a large following, he realizes not everyone can hear his pronouncements and has solved this with a recorded "hotline" message featuring his latest discoveries and theories. (Dial-a-conspiracy can be reached at 312-731-1100 anytime.)

Where to end? There are countless more who have spent years checking out assassination facts and theories, from *Sylvia Maegher* and her monumental collation of Warren Commission data to *Herbert MacDonnell, John Nichols* and *Josiah Thompson*'s ballistics and medical analysis work. The list of political necrophiles includes John Birchers, *Dick Gregory*, and members of the "housewives underground," the disparaging title attached to women who did early Dallas investigating.

I've got fifty more names; all these people that I've mentioned are just ones who have popped up in the media over the past twelve years in the effort to solve the greatest mystery stories of all time. It may be that by the 1976 elections, the producer, director and supporting cast of the Zapruder film will receive the recognition they so justly deserve. Then we can see what other scripts they've been working on. ■

THE OSWALD TAPES

BY JEFF COHEN

Either Lee Harvey Oswald was a bona fide pro-Castroite or he was an agent of U.S. intelligence. There is no other alternative. It was Warren Commissioner Gerald Ford who insisted that Oswald's "commitment to communism" be listed as motivation for murder.

But the sum total of Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba activities consisted of three leaflet-distributions and two radio interviews. Scrutiny of these events, which were all staged in New Orleans, sheds light on the leftist/agent issue.

The Warren Commision found that Oswald, who issued a membership card to himself, had acted as secretary of a nonexistent "New Orleans chapter":

His "organization" was a product of his imagination. The chapter had never been chartered by the national FPCC organization. It appears to have been a solitary operation on Oswald's part . . .

Some of Oswald's "Hands Off Cuba" leaflets were stamped with the address: "FPCC 544 Camp St. NEW ORLEANS, LA." Had the Commission seriously pursued this lead, it would have found no Fair Play for Cuba office, but instead, the detective agency of Guy Bannister, the right-wing, ex-head of the Chicago FBI office.

We now know that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was targeted by the FBI for penetration in the early '60s. Harry Dean, an FBI infiltrator who became an officer of the Chicago FPCC, declared: "I got the impression that Oswald was doing the same thing I was."

While leafleting near Canal Street on Aug. 9, 1963, Oswald was confronted by three Cuban exiles, and was assaulted by one—Carlos Bringuier. Oswald, who had folded his arms in a non-violent gesture, was arrested for disturbing the peace. Instead of a lawyer, Oswald requested an interview with an FBI agent.

One week later, accompanied by two day-laborers he had hired, Oswald distributed leaflets outside the International Trade Mart. Because WDSU-TV cameras happened to film the event, Oswald gained instant notoriety in the pro-exile, anti-Castro milieu of New Orleans. Bill Stuckey of WDSU-radio invited the pariah for an interview on the next day's *Latin Listening Post*.

Stuckey taped a 35-minute interview with Lee Oswald, but only five minutes of discussion was aired. (The highlights of the entire discussion are printed below.) In a fairly articulate manner, Oswald discussed the ideals of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, as outlined in its literature. Oswald resorted to pure myth-making when questioned about his New Orleans "chapter":

. . . I and several other of my members had a demonstration in front of the International Trade Mart . . .

We have had members in this area for several months now.

When asked about his personal background, he skipped over his two and a half years in Russia. This omission became the main issue of the radio debate on August 21—three days later.

The Great Debate put Lee Harvey Oswald up against Carlos Bringuier, the Cuban exile who had staged the public confrontation with Oswald ten days earlier; Ed Butler, anti-communist propagandist with the Information Council of the Americas (INCA); and the two moderators from WDSU-News, Bill Stuckey and Bill Slatter.

Stuckey and Butler opened the debate by producing newspaper clippings that exposed Oswald's 1959 attempt to renounce his American citizenship and become a Soviet citizen. Lee Oswald prevaricated when he denied those attempts, but his denials warrant scrutiny:

During those two weeks [upon arriving in Russia] I was, of course with the knowledge of the American Embasy, getting this permission [to reside].

. . . at no time was I out of contact with the American Embassy.

But the most revealing response was evoked when the smooth-talking Oswald was momentarily stumped. He stammered badly, and made a dramatic slip-up.

SLATTER: *I'm curious to know just how you supported yourself during the three years that you lived in the Soviet Union. Did you have a government subsidy?*

OSWALD: *Well, as I uh, well, I will answer that ques . . . uh question directly then, since you will not rest until you get your answer. I worked in Russia. I was under uh, the protection of the uh . . . of the uh . . . that is to say, I was not under the protection of the uh . . . American government. But that is I was at all times considered an American citizen.*

The Warren Commission published a transcript of this debate as Stuckey Exhibit No. 3. The crucial excerpt follows:

OSWALD: . . . *I worked in Russia. I was* ***not*** *under the protection of the—that is to say I was not under protection of the American government . . .*

(emphasis added)

Although the Commission's 99% accurate transcript contains typing errors, the above "mistake" is the only one that materially alters the meaning of a statement. By adding the word "not," a revealing slip-up becomes a mere repetitious stammer.

This writer is indebted to the myopic right-wing groups who made lp records of the debate. INCA's Ed Butler produced the debate on record with a flashy red album jacket: *OSWALD—Self-Portrait in Red*. The ultra-rightest Christian Crusade also produced one, "with a dynamic commentary by Dr. (Billy James) Hargis."

Was Lee Oswald an agent? The evidence suggests that he was; that his actions were taken to establish 'left-cover.'

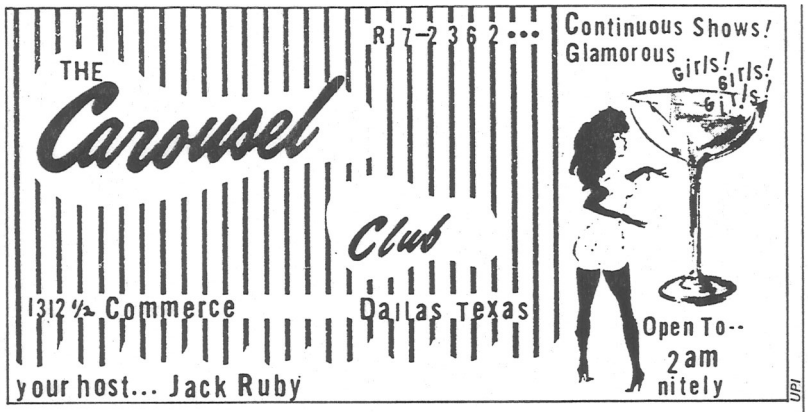
What about his apparent sincerity in defending Fair Play for Cuba? Oswald was full of contradictions. At the same time he criticized "Russian imperialism" on the radio, he wrote to the Communist Party for political guidance. Oswald simultaneously attempted to join groups in the opposing Trotskyist and Stalinist camps. The evidence indicates that Mr. Oswald succumbed to one of the known occupational hazards of the informant's trade—schizophrenia.

BRINGUIER: *Do you agree with Fidel Castro when in his last speech of July 26th of this year he qualified President John F. Kennedy of the United States as a ruffian and a thief. Do you agree with Mr. Castro?*

OSWALD: *I would not agree with that particular wording. However . . .*

Young Lee Oswald: street fightin' man

Tonight we have with us a representative of probably the most controversial organization connected with Cuba in this country. The organization, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, the person, Lee Oswald, secretary of the New Orleans chapter to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. This organization



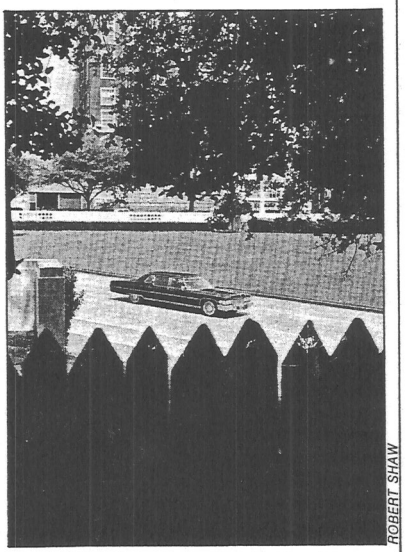
has long been on the Justice Department's black list and is a group which is generally considered to be the leading pro-Castro body in the nation. As a reporter of Latin American affairs in this city for several years now, your columnist has kept a look out for local representatives of this pro-Castro group. None appeared in public view until this week, when young Lee Oswald was arrested and convicted for disturbing the peace. He was arrested while passing out pro-Castro literature to a crowd which included several violently anti-Castro Cuban refugees. When we finally tracked Mr. Oswald down today and asked him to participate in *Latin Listening Post*, he told us frankly that he would because it may help his organization attract more members in this area. With that in mind, and knowing that Mr. Oswald must have had to demonstrate a great skill in dialectics before he was entrusted with his present post, we now proceed on a course of random questioning of Mr. Oswald.

Q:*Mr. Oswald, uh, if I may, uh, how long has the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had an organization in New Orleans*?
A:We have had members in this area for several months now. Up until about two months ago, however, we had not organized our members into any sort of active group. Until, as you say, this week we had decided to feel out the public, uh, what they think of our organization, our aims. And for that purpose we have been, as you say, distributing literature on the street, uh, for the purpose of trying to attract new members and feel out the public.

Q:*Are you at liberty to reveal the membership of your organization*?
A:No, I'm not.

Q:*For what reason*?
A:Well, as secretary I believe it's standard operating procedure that an organization consisting of a political minority protect the names and addresses of its members, and I have every, uh, that is my duty and I have every reason to do that.

Q:*Mr. Oswald, there are many commentators in the journalistic field in this country that equate the Fair Play for Cuba Committe with the American Communist Party. What's your feeling about this and are you a member of the American Communist Party*?
A:Well, heh, heh, heh, heh (*laughs*) . . . The Fair Play for Cuba Committee, with its headquarters at 799 Broadway in New York, has been investigated by the Senate sub-committees who are occupied with this sort of thing. They have investigated our organization from the viewpoint of taxes, subversion, allegiance and in general where and how and why we exist. They have found absolutely nothing to connect us with the Communist Party of the United States. In regards to your question about whether I, myself, am a Communist, uh, as I said, I do not belong to any organization.


ROBERT SHAW

A shot from the grassy knoll today

Q:*I noticed from your pamphlets that one bears the title of "Hands off Cuba." I'm curious as to whether or not this applies to the Soviet Union as well as the United States.*
A:Uh, this organization is not occupied at all with the problem of the Soviet Union or the problem of, uh, international communism. Uh, "Hands off Cuba" is *the* main slogan of this committee. It means, uh, it follows our first principle, which has to do with non-intervention—in other words, keeping your hands off a foreign state which is supported by the Constitution and so forth and so on. We have our own non-intervention laws. That is what "Hands off Cuba" means. As I say, we are not occupied at all with the problem of the Soviet Union.

Q:*Do you feel that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee would maintain its present line as far as supporting President, uh, Premier Castro if the Soviet Union broke relations with the Castro regime in Cuba?*
A:We do not support the man, we do not support the individual—we support the idea of an independent revolution in the Western Hemisphere, free from American intervention. We do not support, as I say, the individual. If the Cuban people destroy Castro, or if he is otherwise proven to have betrayed his own revolution, that will not have any bearing upon this committee. We are, uh, a committee who do believe that Castro has not, so far, betrayed his own country.

Q:*Mr. Oswald, does it make any difference to you if any of the activities of the local branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee benefit the Communist Party or the goals of International Communism*?
A:Does it make any . . . wow. Well, that is what I believe you would term a loaded question. However, I will attempt to answer it. Uh, it is inconsistent with my ideals to support communism, my personal ideals. It is inconsistent with the ideals of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee to support the ideals in International Communism. We are not occupied with that problem. We are occupied with the problem of Cuba. We do not believe, under any circumstances, that in supporting our ideals, we do not believe that that is inconsistent with believing in democracy. Quite the contrary. We believe that it is a necessity in supporting democracy to support Fidel Castro in his right to make his country any way he wants to. Not

BANG..
SMACK!
BANG..

so much the right to destroy us; of course, we have our rights about defense. In other words, we do not feel that we are supporting International Communism or communism in supporting Fidel Castro.

Q:*What other political leaders in Latin America today do you feel fulfill the Fair Play for Cuba Committee's, uh, requirements for a democratic political leader*?

A:Well, uh, you know there's a funny story about Latin America. It goes something like this: Coffee, bananas, sugar, and a few other products. In other words, that refers to the so-called 'banana countries.' Countries which, like Cuba up to this time, had a one-crop agriculture, a one-crop economy. And where do those crops go? They went to the United States. Now the attitude of those countries who are controlled by the United States, whose economy depends almost 100% upon how much money the United States pours into them . . . those countries cannot be expected to give an independent viewpoint on Cuba or Castro.

Q:*What is your definition of democracy*?

A: My defini . . . the definition of democracy. That's a very good one. That's a very controversial viewpoint. You know, it used to be very clear but now it's not. You know, when our forefathers drew up the Constitution, they considered that democracy was creating an atmosphere of freedom, of discussion, of argument, of finding the truth, the rights of, well, the classic right of having life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In Latin America they have none of those rights. None of them at all. And that is my definition of democracy: the right to be in a minority and not to be suppressed, the right to see for yourself without government restrictions. Such countries as Cuba. And we are, by the way, restricted from going to Cuba.

Q:*Last year . . . we had possibly 50 to 60 thousand Cubans fleeing from Cuba to the United States. What is the Fair Play for Cuba Committee's official reply to this*?

A: . . . You know, it's funny about revolutions. Revolutions require work. Revolutions require sacrifice. Revolutions—and our own included—require a certain amount of rationing, a certain amount of callouses, a certain amount of sacrifice, sacrificing one's own personal ideas about country, citizenship, work. And these people who have fled Cuba have not been

"It's funny about revolutions . . ."

able to adapt themselves to these new factors that have entered into their lives . . . . These people are the people who did not remain in Cuba to be educated by young people, who are afraid of the alphabet, who are afraid of these new things which were occurring, afraid that they would lose something by collectivization.

Q:*Mr. Oswald, I'm curious about your personal background. If you could tell us something about where you came from, your education and your career to date, we'd be interested.*

A:I'd be very happy to. I was born in New Orleans in 1939. For a short length of time during my childhood I lived in Texas and in New York. During my junior high school days I attended Beauregard Junior High School. I attended that school for two years. Then I went to Warren Eastern High School and I attended that school for over a year. Then my family and I moved to Texas where we have many relatives, and I continued my schooling there. Then I entered the United States Marine Corps in 1956. I spent three years in the United States Marine Corps, starting out as a private, working my way up through the ranks to the position of buck sergeant. And I served honorably, having been discharged. Then I went back to work in Texas and have recently arrived in New Orleans with my family, with my wife and my child.

Q:*What particular event in your life made you decide that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had the correct answers about the, about Cuban-U.S. relations*?

A:Well, of course Americans in general have only begun to notice Cuba since the Cuban Revolution, that is very true, I think. Uh, I became acquainted with it at about the same time as everybody else in 1960. Uh, I always felt that the Cubans were being pushed into the Soviet bloc by American policy. I still feel that way. Our policy, if it had been handled differently—and many others much more informed than I have said the same thing—if that situation had been handled differently, we would not have the big problem of Castro's Cuba now, the big international political problem. Although I feel that it's a just and a right development in Cuba. Still, we could be on much friendlier relations with Cuba, and had the government of the United States, its government agencies—particularly certain covert, uh, covert, uh, undercover agencies like the now-defunct CIA . . .

Q:*Now defunct*?

A:Well, its leadership is now defunct. Allen Dulles is now defunct. That, I believe that without all that meddling, with a little bit different humanitarian handling of the situation, uh, Cuba would not be the problem it is today.

Q:*There's one point of view which I have heard to the effect that Castro turned left because he could not get any aid for industrialism in Cuba from the United States. Does the Fair Play for Cuba Committee believe that?*

A:Not entirely, no. We feel that was a factor, certainly. But we feel that the current history of the world is now running to that extreme. In other words, countries emerging from colonial domination and so forth are definitely adopting socialistic, leftist, Marxist and even, in some cases, what will be in the future communist regimes and communist inclination. You see, this is something that is apparently a world trend.

Q:*Does the Fair Play for Cuba Committee believe that this trend should also be copied in the United States*?

A:No. The Fair Play for Cuba Committee is occupied only with the Cuban problem. I, uh . . . Do I think that they feel that way? No.

Thank you very much Mr. Oswald. Tonight we've been talking with Lee Oswald, the secretary of the New Orleans chapter of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee. In subsequent programs we will present the comments of other leaders concerned with the U.S.-Cuban conflict. Goodnight. ■